

NEWPORT & GWENT PHILATELY November 2012 - Number 48

News of Members

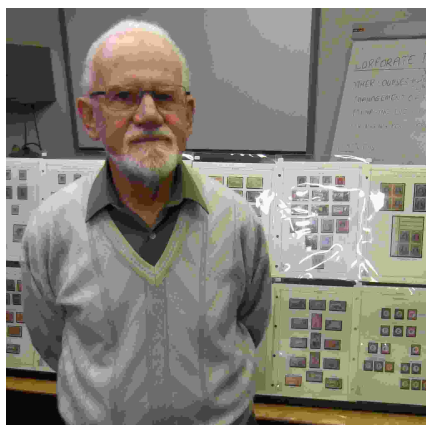
The AGM saw a change to the committee due to ill health of George Whitfield and Gwen Hussey. Robert Agg has now joined the committee and Roy Bentley is vice chairman. The AGM also saw agreement to close the club library and dispose of the books.

We welcome three new attendees at our meetings: Robert Kemp, Simon Bray and Doug Knight. We hope that they will become regulars.

Recent meetings

The ladies evening on 2 May saw displays from Bev Davies, Margaret Harding and Diane Cannard. This was followed two weeks later by the annual visit from the Barry society, with Alan Rosser and Brian Brandon providing the entertainment. It was a pleasure to see a good turnout for the AGM on 30 May. The summer meetings at members' houses (John Perry, Roy Bentley and Alistair Mackinnon) saw some fine displays and even finer refreshments from partners but low attendances.

The 2012/2013 season kicked off on 5 September with the usual new acquisitions evening with 12 of the 16 members present bringing material along. On 19 September we had displays by Philip Marsden and Roger Gilbert of the Cardiff club. Graham Bean, who is a member of both Newport and Cardiff, also contributed to the evening. We had a superb display on 3 October, when Michael Bale showed us some choice items from his King George VI collection. We saw only A and B countries, so there will be plenty left for future meetings.



Michael Bale with his display

There was a very good turnout for the ever popular bring and buy evening on 7 October.

John Perry took the opportunity to attend the Scottish Vikings meeting in Perth on 1 September, where he display some of his Swedish military mail. He also visited the Bath society on 24 October giving a talk on the history of the Swedish American Line. Part of this display will be on show at the Royal Philatelic Society on 29 November celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Scandinavia Philatelic Society. If any members plan to give displays to other clubs, I will include information in future Newsletters. But I can do this only if I am told!

Federation News

Neil Jones won the general class and the victor ludorum vase at the Federation Convention on 19 May 2012 in Port Talbot.



Neil Jones (right) receiving his award

Bev Davies won the Thematic trophy and Molly Ann Clibbert the junior trophy.



The Autumn Fair took place on 29 September 2012 at the YMCA, Angel Street, Bridgend. Our club had a table. There was a good turnout by Newport members but few from other clubs or the general public.

Alistair Mackinnon and John Perry represented the club at the Federation AGM on 20 October 2012. The morning was devoted to displays by members, with Alistair showing some Antarctic shipping and John showing Monmouthshire postal history. After a break for lunch which we enjoyed on the sunny and warm Porthcawl seafront, the afternoon saw the main business being discussed. Following the death of Shirley Baker, the post of President has now been filled by Charlie Williams of Carmarthen. The next convention is on 18 May 2013 at the Princess Theatre, Port Talbot. The postcard sales in 2012 were disappointing. As a result there will be no postcard for the 2013 Convention.

A Bit of Club History

I have just found a club booklet that would have been from the days before we were part of the South Wales Federation circuit. It was filled by Ken Wilmott and has a price of 60p for the remainders when it was withdrawn but has no date. Do any members remember a Newport club stamp box?

Newport & Gwent Philatelic Society					BOOKLET NO/DATE			
VALUE £	GB & CW							
VENDOR	K Wilmott				NO			
NAME	NO	£	P	NAME	NO	£	P	
P.S. Mueser	5	-	11					
Club Book				Remainders				
				60p				

Welsh Philatelic Society (WPS)

Martyn Britton and John Perry, with their wives, attended the annual weekend meeting at Plas Tan y Bwlch in June. This is an enjoyable break for anyone interested in any aspect of philately. The weekend has displays, an auction of Welsh philatelic material and dealer tables. Anyone interested in Welsh philately would do well to join and at only £8 a year for the subscription, which includes copies of the society magazine, it is a real bargain.



Plas Tan y Bwlch

Stamp News

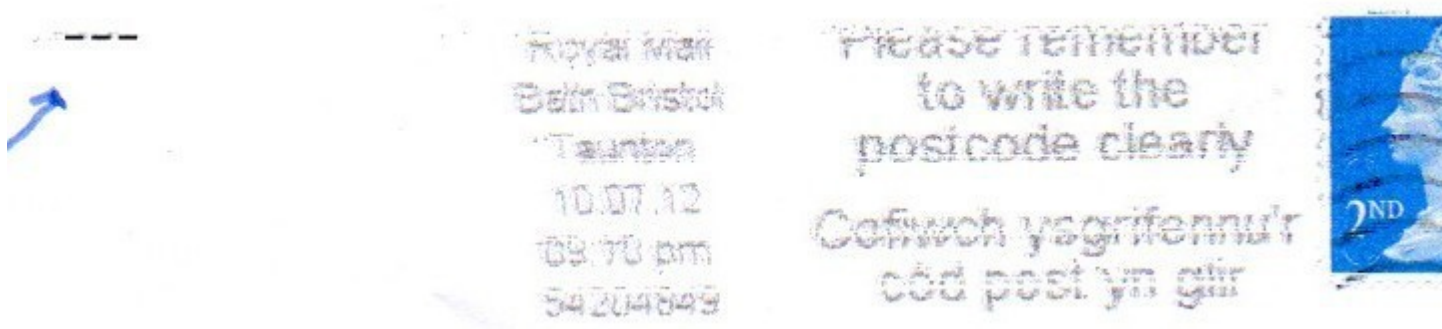
The Olympic and Paralympic Games produced only one local gold medal winner, Mark Colbourne from Tredegar. Each of the gold medal winner were celebrated by the issue of a miniature sheet, comprising six

first class stamps for the Olympics and two first class stamps for the Paralympics. The Post Office aimed to get the sheets out to three local post offices out of 90 nationally by the afternoon of the day following the event. The three chosen were Newport Bridge Street, Bulwark and Pontypool. Other post offices received supplies several days later. As well as the stamp, Royal Mail painted a post box in gold to celebrate each winner.



Gold post box Tredegar

Something odd to look for are envelopes with one or three dots. The example below with three dots also shows a Welsh/ English bilingual postmark from the Bath Bristol Taunton postal centre on an item addressed to Gwent. When I have information on why the dots are printed and why the postmark is bilingual I will put it in the Newsletter. ***



*** UPDATE ON THOSE DOTS (courtesy of Paul Reynolds)

Because so much mail is handled by private companies Royal Mail wants to make it clear to customers that they are still involved. The plan is to print the Royal Mail logo and "Delivered by Royal Mail". In Wales it has to be bilingual. However, the software is not yet up to it, so until then only 3 dots are printed.

Mail to addresses in Wales from everywhere in the UK is to get a Welsh or Bilingual slogan. This started at Bristol, followed by Nottingham and Leicester. Eventually it it apply everywhere. Similarly mail from Wales to addresses outside Wales will have an English-only slogan

Other dates for your diary

Meeting of the Scandinavia Philatelic Society in Undy on 27 April 2013

Royal Philatelic Society of London regional meeting of Wales and Hereford at Worpex on 11 May 2013

All Newport members are invited to both events.

John Perry, Honorary Secretary